The HISTORY of JOHN CLEVELAND, *Esq.* Of the County of YORK;

AND

Miſs Charlotte Haywood, Of *Portland Square, London:*

Being a tragical and true HISTORY.

Giving a particular Account of a young Gentleman of Thirty Thouſand Pounds Fortune, who was totally ruined at the E O Table.

1. Account of his family, early fondneſs for pleaſure; coming of age, he ſees Miſs Charlotte at Brighthelmſtone, with other particulars neceſſary to the underſtanding this Hiſtory.
2. Letters between the young [illegible]ple; Mr. Cleveland, [illegible]ten. taken ill, his recovery, return home. Young Cleveland viſits Charlotte [illegible]one, meets with Freeman and his Wife, arrives at Haywood Hall.
3. Deſcription of a pleaſant grove, with a remarkable fine oak, the happineſs they enjoyed in this place, diſcourſe about the wedding day, his father dies.
4. The funeral, his mother returns to a relation, letters that paſſed between him and Charlotte. He goes to London.
5. Some account of the company he kept, they determine to fleece him, ſome account of the E O table, he loſes an immenſe ſum, goes to York, and his ſucceſs there.
6. Receives a letter from Charlotte, leaves Scarborough, goes to Nottingham, loſes more money, dips the eſtate, writes to Charlotte, goes to her, ſtrives to vindicate his conduct, borrows money of her, and a correſpondence unknown to her father is agreed to.
7. Return to London, goes to the E-O, loſes his money, writes to Charlotte, but receives no anſwer, goes into the country, leaves a letter, begging a laſt meeting, hangs himſelf, ſhe buries him, her death and concluſion.

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B L

THE

HISTORY

OF

John Cleveland, Esq.

CHAP. I.

An Account of Mr. Cleveland and his Family, his early fondness for pleasure, his coming of Age, he sees Miss at Brighthelmstone, with other Particulars.

AN early propensity to pleasure, and too much indulgence from parents and guardians has been often the ruin of many of our English youths of fortune. Mr. Cleveland, the subject of the following sheets, will shew a fatal example to all who are fond of gaming, and more particularly that delusive and destructive entertainment called an E-O table.

This young gentleman was the ſon of a worthy man, in the Weſt of England, who poſſeſs'd an eſtate of about five hundred a year, but his brother a very rich merchant, dying a batchelor, left thirty thouſand pounds to his nephew, which he was to be ſole maſter of as ſoon as he came of age.

This youth was of a ſprightly diſpoſition, had a genteel perſon, a fine florid complexion, and an eaſy air, which attracted the notice of all who beheld him, he had a great ſhare of natural ſenſe, which was cultivated by a liberal education; theſe qualifications joined to a ſweetneſs of diſpoſition; made him much reſpected, and his company courted by all that knew him.

While he was at college his allowance was more than prudence would have ſuggeſted, but his father thought that a parſimonious diſtribution of money might curb his genius, and ſometimes ſubject him to little inconveniencies, which he did not wiſh ſhould attend him; thus an over generous ſupport from the fondneſs of a parent, laid the foundation of his future ruin. Notwithſtanding he never was deficient in regard to his ſtudies, but purſued them with unwearied diligence, yet he found times ſufficient to loſe great ſums of money at the gaming table, as there was ſeveral private ones in the neighbourhood; as to wine he was never fond of, neither did he ever mix with diſorderly company, and when fortune had often reduced him to the laſt guinea, he would never ſolicit more from his father, till the quarterly allowance became due, for he poſſeſſed a deal of patience, and would abſent himſelf from the table till he had got a freſh recruit, which in a ſhort

time

time was likewiſe gone, yet he was by no means an inadequate player, but as often won as loſt when any one played with him on the ſquare, and tho' he was very quick of apprehenſion, yet he had not the leaſt ſuſpicion of being cheated, nor could he imagine that any one who pretended to the character of a gentleman, could condeſcend to degrade his character ſo far as to become a ſharper.

What pity 'tis that ſo worthy a mind ſhould be ſubjected to the power of villains, whoſe ſole life is to prey upon the unwary and unſuſpecting part of mankind.

And what pity 'tis that thoſe who wear the habit of ſcholars, ſhould cover ſuch meanneſs under that reverend diſguiſe, but to the ſcandal of many it is too true.

He had now turned his twentieth year, and in a ſhort time left the univerſity with the diſtinguiſhed character of being a good ſcholar, and a compleat gentleman, a character which none more juſtly deſerved, he ſpent his time chiefly at home, till he came of age, and in poſſeſſion of ſo great a fortune as 30000 pounds, when this era arrived great rejoicings were made, the manor-houſe was open to all comers and goers, and all the gentry round about received invitations, to partake of their feſtivity. There was muſic, balls, and aſſemblies, at which were preſent all the beautiful young ladies of the county, each trying all the influence of their charms to captivate the young ſquire, who however, was at preſent inſenſible to the force of beauty, at leaſt his heart was reſerved for another occaſion, as will be ſeen in the courſe of this hiſtory.

The

The rejoicing on this event were continued for a month, when our young gentleman ſeemed rather weary of being at home, and he thought of ſoliciting the leave of his parents, to ſee the different counties, and viſit the public places of entertainment, according to their different ſeaſons.

This requeſt would not have been refuſed, when the following letter from an old brother collegian arrived, and produced all he could wiſh for.

" Dear Cleveland,

Give me leave to congratulate you on your acceſſion to your fortune, I have been ſome months of age, myſelf, and have juſt obtained leave to make the tour of England, and nothing would add more to my felicity, than to have your company, you know I hate foppery and noiſe, and place my chiefeſt pleaſure in a ſocial friend, our ſtudies you know were the ſame, and our inclinations ſeemed totally like brothers, and I think ſuch a tour might be of ſervice to our underſtanding, we could help each others obſervations, moralize upon the productions of nature, and the cuſtoms of the world, and lay up a good ſtock of precepts for future uſe, we could be pleaſant without vanity, and ſerious without pedantry, and make ourſelves as happy as the ſports of infants: if you approve of this plan it will give me great ſatisfaction; I ſhall not wait for an anſwer by the poſt, but ſhall call on you in perſon in two days, 'till when believe me ſincerely,

your humble ſervant,

C. FREEMAN".

This

This letter ſaved him from the embarraſment he was in concerning his aſking leave to go the tour, he ſhewed it to his father, who was highly delighted, with it, and ſaid his friends had drawn his own character in ſuch pleaſing colours, that every one muſt like it, he then aſked if he propoſed to go with Mr. Freeman, to which he modeſtly replied, that his inclinations ſhould be directed by his will; why that's a good lad, ſaid his father, and I promiſe you, you, have my conſent with all my heart, and to be plain with you, I was thinking that your mother and I would attend you to Brighthelmſtone, but I ſhall now alter my plan, and when the ſeaſon comes we will meet you there; this gave great pleaſure to young Cleveland, for he did not wiſh to have his father with him thro' the whole of the journey, not for want of duty or affection to the beſt of parents, but a certain ſomething which is in common to all young people, who rather prefer the company of thoſe nearer to their own age. According to his promiſe in the letter, Mr. Freeman arrived at the Hall, he was received very reſpectfully by Cleveland, and his father and mother, who all ſtrove who ſhould be foremoſt in doing honor to ſo worthy a gentleman, as he in every thing appeared to be, his converſation was agreeable, his manners open and free, his perſon pleaſing, in ſhort he diſplayed all that is underſtood by the words a gentleman, and a man of ſenſe.

Mr. Freeman ſtaid about a week while things were getting ready for Cleveland, when after having promiſed to meet at Brighthelmſtone, and to write as often as opportunity would permit, they ſet out attended with a ſervant each, they

firſt paid a viſit to Bath, as they were not many miles from that diſtinguiſhed ſeat of pleaſure.

But before we proceed further, it may not be thought unneceſſary to ſay a little more in regard to Freeman's character, he was in fact the very man as has been before deſcribed, but we are ſorry to add, that an inſatiate thought for gaming was a ſpeck in his character, and which in time led himſelf and Cleveland to ruin.

They did not ſtay long at Bath, yet long enough for Mr. Cleveland to loſe a conſiderable ſum at the gaming table, where he conſtantly went with Freeman, who was more fortunate, and generally came away with full pockets, which was merely the work of chance, and very well it was ſo for him, as his fortune was but ſmall, in compariſon with that which Cleveland poſſeſſed; they next viſited the Hot-wells, at Briſtol, but they played but little there; from whence they took their route to the different watering places, along the coaſt, and ſtaid ſometime at Sedmouth, which is very convenient for bathing, as the ſea comes level to the ſhore; here the variety of ſcenes which the country afforded, gave them great delight, the unbounded proſpect of the ocean, with tall ſhips ſailing different ways, the ſea fowl ſettling on the ſands, the rude rocks in other parts, and the wide paſtures, and corn fields, with cattle and peaſants at their rural employments, interſperſed with cottages, and diſtant ſpires in the interior part of the country, afforded that innocent felicity which has been ſo much praiſed and admired in all countries, and in all ages, and here had they given themſelves time to reflect, they would ſoon have

have ſeen how fallacious were the joys of the midnight gaming table, to the pure and wholeſome pleaſures which are derived from exerciſe and natural paſtimes: but folly had ſhed her influence over them, and they were both doom'd to be ſacrifices to her infatuating charms, as will be too fatally proved before the concluſion of this hiſtory.

Where it will be found that the force of love, tenderneſs, and domeſtic felicity are all ſet aſide, and ruined openly, purſued for the ſake of a game at chance, that the company of ſharpers is prefered to the ſweets of innocence and connubial bliſs.

But more of this in its proper place, for it is now time they ſhould remember their appointment at Brighthelmſtone? they accordingly ſet out for that place, determined to be rather before the time than after, as it might ſhew want of reſpect to let the old gentlefolks wait for them.

Cleveland being arrived at Brighthelmſtone, loſt no time, but immediately joined in every faſhionable amuſement, he frequented the card tables every evening and played very deep, and though he ſometimes won, yet he oftner loſt.

Being at the Aſſembly rooms one night with an intention to dance, he looked about ſome time for a partner, but not ſeeing one to his liking ſat himſelf down awhile; not long after an elderly gentleman and lady entered, they were accompanied by a beautiful young lady, and ſeated themſelves cloſe by Cleveland, at the firſt glance he was ſtruck with her uncommon charms, and on a nearer view of her, became quite captivated.

It was no wonder, for Charlotte was capable of inſpiring love, her face was exquiſite, her form elegant, many gentlemen offered her their hand to dance, but ſhe declined them with an air of politeneſs and good breeding.

Cleveland being vain of his own figure and addreſs, flattered himſelf to ſucceed, he accordingly with a compliment, uttered with a good grace, preſented her his hand. Charlotte, after a faint excuſe, accepted him for a partner, and with a ſweet ſmile on her lovely countenance, ſuffered him to lead her out, to the great mortification of a number of rivals, for there was ſcarce a gentleman in the whole aſſembly but wiſhed for the ſame honour.

The old gentleman did not care to ſtay late, and his daughter who was very dutiful took her leave of Cleveland, and left him with a heart entangled in love more than ever he had experienced before, however, to divert himſelf he ſoon fell to gaming and loſt a conſiderable ſum, for he fell in with a ſet who knew how to cog a die, and went to that place on purpoſe to cheat, though they were dreſſed like noblemen.

When he got home to his lodgings, and laid himſelf down in bed, he began to reflect on the adventures of the night, and though it was ſome trouble to him to loſe his money, yet he thought that might eaſily be repaid next time he played, but he felt ſomething that gave him more pain, which was the loſs of his heart, and to an object that he did not know whether it would ever be in his power to attain, but he determined next day

to

to trace her out, and enquire what family and fortune ſhe was.

He was no ſooner up and dreſſed in the morning than he made that his buſineſs, and ſoon learned that the old gentleman's name was Mr. Haywood, that he was rich, and could give his daughter thirty thouſand pounds, this was a great pleaſure to him, and as he had a conſiderable fortune of his own, beſides his perſonable qualifications, he went home to equip himſelf in the beſt and gayeſt manner he could, in order to ſtrike a bold ſtroke.

He waited on Charlotte, and was ſhewn into a parlour, Mr. Haywood ſoon entered and made an apology for his daughter being dreſſing, but inſiſted on his ſtaying to dine, and then he might have an opportunity of enquiring after her health.

He readily complied with the gentleman's invitation, and was overjoyed to find him ſo free, he was conducted into the dining room, and Charlotte, with her aunt ſoon entered.

Charlotte no ſooner ſaw him advance to ſalute her, than a crimſon bluſh overſpread her cheeks, and ſhe had hardly power to return his compliments, for ſhe little expected to have ſuch an interview with her agreeable partner, tho' ſhe had thought of nothing elſe ſince.

When dinner was over Charlotte and her aunt retired, when being left alone with Mr. Haywood, he in the moſt reſpectful manner begg'd leave to pay his addreſſes to Miſs; the old gentleman told him he was welcome while they ſtaid at

Brighthelmſtone to viſit there as often as he pleaſed, and if he found every thing as he had ſaid in regard to his family and fortune, he ſhould have no objection, and he did not imagine his daughter would have any.

When Cleveland returned home he enquired for his friend Freeman, whom he had not ſeen for two days, and he wanted to tell him his happineſs, but he who had a heart capable of tender impreſſions, had been employed in ſomething of a ſimilar nature, he had met with a very handſome young lady by accident, had made himſelf agreeable to her, and was juſt come from viſiting her, both ſhook hands on their adventures, and wiſhed each other joy.

Cleveland continually viſited Charlotte, and found that ſhe was not averſe to him, on the contrary after many ſolicitations ſhe confeſſed a reciprocal affection.

A few weeks after Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland came to Brighthelmſtone, as they had promiſed their ſon, he thought it his duty to inform them of his attachment, and by his deſire they waited on Mr. Haywood, who received them with the greateſt politeneſs and cordiality, and they were quite charmed with their ſon's choice, and gave their free conſent to the union.

Mr. Haywood's affairs calling him home he did not chuſe to leave his daughter behind him, but gave a ſtrong invitation to Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland, with their ſon, to viſit them as ſoon as they left that place; the young couple took a tender

leave

leave of each other, promiſing to write their ſentiments every opportunity, nor did they think their parting ſo dreadful, as they hoped when they met again to be made happy for ever.

When they were gone, young Cleveland took all imaginable pains to pleaſe his father and mother, he introduced them to all the public places of amuſement, and Mr. Freeman with his beloved Clariſſa was generally of the party; that gentleman had ſo far gained the affections of that young lady, that ſhe conſented to marry him, and by the approbation of their friends they were married, and ſet out for London, which was his place of reſidence.

Cleveland began to think the time long that he had been parted from Charlotte, but did not care to hurry his father and mother away from a place where they found any pleaſure, ſo contented himſelf with writing a letter to her, which he did in the manner as will be ſeen in the next Chapter.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

Letters between the young Couple, Mr. Cleveland taken ill, his recovery, return home, young Cleveland viſits Charlotte alone, meets with Freeman and his Wife, arrives at Haywood Hall, &c. &c.

Mr. Cleveland having retired to his cloſet to prevent being interrupted, wrote as follows.

To Miſs Charlotte Haywood,

" My deareſt angel,

You alone are capable of feeling the pains that abſence gives me, if you have the ſame ſentiments in my favour, as you flattered me you had when we parted, and ſurely my Charlotte is incapable of deceit.

They ſay that abſence ſtrengthens love, and I believe if that is poſſible it has mine; oh, how I long to gaze upon your beauty, to hear you ſpeak ſuch tender words as uſed to catch my liſtening ear and charm my ſoul, 'tis impoſſible my dear Charlotte, to expreſs the pangs I feel, when ſometimes in my dreams I ſee you give your hand to another, but my waking hopes tells me that will never be, my

my dear charmer is not of a fickle nature, but will be conſtant to a man, who adores like me.

Yet, ſhould your father find ſome richer match, one who he thinks more worthy of your perfections, what would become of me, my head is giddy, and my heart throbs at the thought, pray my dear Charlotte, let me hear from you immediately, and aſſure me of your conſtancy, and your father's friendſhip, my father and mother talk of ſetting out the latter end of next week, and deſire me to remember their beſt reſpects, and I beg you will make mine to your father and aunt, as to yourſelf, believe me my, deareſt love, eternally your ſincere adorer.

CLEVELAND."

He ſent this letter away without ſhewing it to his father or mother, only told them that he had written, and preſented their compliments, as he was aſhamed to let them read his love for Charlotte, though it was true and the dictates of his heart, and was beſides what they had both experienced when they was young themſelves, but few young people love to make old ones their confidants. A few days after Cleveland received an anſwer to his letter from Charlotte, which he kiſſed, and opening it, read as follows.

To John Cleveland, Eſq.

"Dear Cleveland,

For I will ſtill call you ſo, nor has abſence leſſened my affection for you, my ſentiments are ſtill the ſame, nor can they ever alter while you behave honorable,

honorable, which I have not the leaſt doubt of, but I muſt blame you for your fears of me and my father, and deſire you not to let ſuch ideas poſſeſs your mind, but rather give it up entirely to joy at the proſpect of our happy meeting ſo ſoon, I ſhall count the hours each day till you arrive, my father deſires me to tell you he has very great eſteem for you, and ſo has my aunt likewiſe, and both wiſh for your company, and that of your father and mother, and deſire compliments to them and yourſelf, with fervent wiſhes for a happy ſight of each other,

I remain your ever affectionate

CHARLOTTE."

Cleveland kiſſed the dear paper a thouſand times then put it in his boſom, but he would take it out every hour in the day to read it, though he knew every word of it, and it made him quite eaſy and happy, but how falſly do we judge by appearances, and when we think ourſelves neareſt our happineſs ſome unforeſeen accident, daſhes our hopes, and ſo it happened with him, for the very night before they was to ſet out in the morning, old Mr. Cleveland was ſuddenly taken ill, with a cold ſhivering and a violent pain in his head, this alarmed Cleveland and his mother, however they were in hopes he would be better in the morning, but to their great diſappointment and grief it terminated in a high fever.

Cleveland waited with the greateſt anxiety and impatience five or ſix days, but finding his father no better but the fever rather encreaſed, ſat down and wrote to Charlotte as follows.

To

To Miſs Charlotte Haywood,

" My Deareſt life,

I have afflicting news to tell you; what a cruel ſtroke of fate, that I muſt not only loſe my promiſed happineſs of ſeeing you, but am in danger of loſing my father too: my dear father is in a violent fever, he was taken juſt as we were on the eve of ſetting out from hence, what ſhall I do, or how ſhall I endure it, I am ſorry to give you cauſe for grief, inſtead of joy, but I know that you expected me before this, and ought therefore to know the reaſon, believe me dear Charlotte, nothing ſhould have kept me from you, but this unhappy event, I will not leave my father unleſs you deſire it, pray let me know directly whether you will wait for me any longer, for if my being abſent from ſo long ſhould cool your love, I am undone for ever,

Unhappy CLEVELAND."

The night this letter was ſent away, the old gentleman's fever was at the height, but the next morning he was better, and began to mend every day; the fourth day after he received an anſwer from Charlotte, as follows.

To John Cleveland, Eſq.

" Dear Sir,

Leave your father! no Cleveland, that would be the only means to make me ſlight you, and I am ſorry you cannot better bear diſappointment;

learn not to repine at fate, but meet with fortitude the accidents of life, if you had neglected coming on any trifling excuſe I might have reſented it, but as this is unavoidable have patience, as I will, hoping and praying for your father's recovery, and inſiſting on your not leaving him, which would be a great fault in a dutiful ſon,

I ſtill continue your faithful

CHARLOTTE.

Young Cleveland was doubly pleaſed at his father's recovery, and the kindneſs of Charlotte, and immediately wrote the following to the miſtreſs of his affections.

To Miſs Haywood,

" My ever charming Charlotte,

How ſhall I find words to expreſs my feelings, on receiving your ſenſible and tender hearted letter, to leave my father would be undutiful, it would indeed! but to diſoblige my love would be death to me, but ſince I have your leave, approbation and advice, I will patiently wait the event, and join with you in prayers, for his recovery, which will not a little add to the completion of our happineſs; in the mean time I beg for your indulgence, to continue this correſpondence, as the only means to make my heart eaſy; pray believe me ſincerely,

your's eternally,

CLEVELAND."

He

He diſpatched this letter as ſoon as it was ſealed and directed, and then went to enquire after his father's health, and found he was ſo well as to be able to walk about in his chamber, and in a few days, having a deſire, and by the conſent of the phyſicians, returned to his own houſe, where being more at eaſe, and unwilling to undergo another journey, he begged his ſon would go to viſit Mr. Haywood alone, and make his infirmities the excuſe for his breach of promiſe, which he hoped would be friendly accepted of.

Eſpecially as he gave his conſent to every thing which might be neceſſary to the deſired alliance, and a promiſe, that if poſſible he would attend on the matrimonial ceremony, whenever it ſhould be concluded on, which he left entirely to Mr. Haywood and the young couple; accordingly Mr. Cleveland ſet out, with a heart full of rapture, to meet his dear Charlotte, at Haywood Manor houſe, having the ſatisfaction to think he had left his father entirely out of danger of a relapſe.

He amuſed himſelf as he went along, with a hundred various ideas, he ſometimes was exalted to the pinnacle of all human felicity, by being in poſſeſſion of ſo amiable and ſo worthy a lady as Charlotte; at other times he was as heavy as the moſt melancholly perſon, in the dreary manſions of Moorfields; he would ſigh, and ſay to himſelf, "'tis too much happineſs for me," there is an inviſible ſomething, that ſeems to over-awe my moſt ſanguine hopes, and tells me, it is not to be, ſome deamon, ſays I ſhall loſe her by my own folly. That cannot be, for I love her to diſtraction, but fate muſt be obeyed, and that I muſt ſubmit,—

yet what ſhould hinder it? my fortune is ſufficient, my parents conſent, the lady acknowledges ſhe loves me, her friends are not averſe, but rather inclinable,—away, ye tormenting thoughts, fly to other breaſts, let hope and future joy alone inhabit mine.

In this manner did he ride on ſo abſorbed in thought, that he would have forgot the neceſſary ſtages for refreſhment, but that his ſervant, whoſe ideas never went beyond a good dinner, put him in mind, of what his own appetite informed him. How happy is inſenſibility! its mind is never diſturbed with tender feelings, it ſleeps undiſmayed by dreams, of terror, or pity, and never feels a pang but what is merely for itſelf.

Stopping at an inn, he was not a little ſurprized to find Freeman with his lady there, after mutual compliments had taken place, they ſat down at the ſame table to dinner, when Freeman informed him that he had taken a journey round the country, purely to oblige his bride, that he had been at Exeter races, where ſaid he, I had amazing luck, eſpecially at the E-O table, I have cleared my expences, and brought away upwards of two thouſand pounds; this is the way my boy to ſee the world, and make the world pay for it.

Mrs. Freeman, continued he, is as much delighted with this way of life as I, and we are the happieſt couple in the univerſe.

Mrs. Freeman, indeed was a lady who was fond of all the faſhionable follies of the times, and was never better pleaſed than to ſit up all night at a card

card table, where her fortune was not in general much to her advantage, ſo that Freeman's winnings were abſolutely neceſſary. He then told Mr. Cleveland that he intended to be at York, at Scarborough, at Newmarket, and ſo to all the races in England, and he did not doubt in a very ſhort time to be maſter of an hundred thouſand pounds, ah! my dear boy, ſays he, if you would but join me, we ſhould be the luckieſt two upon earth; tho' Mr. Cleveland had no reaſon to boaſt of his luck at play, yet he moſt anxiouſly wiſh'd to be of the party, but he told his friend that his buſineſs at preſent was love, and that he now was going to viſit the lady, who he hoped ſhortly would be his wife. Well, ſays Freeman, diſpatch the buſineſs as faſt as poſſible, and bring her along with you, ſhe will be an excellent companion for my wife; what ſay you, will not this be rare? Cleveland ſeemed to acquieſce with what he ſaid, yet in his mind was rather of a contrary way of thinking, for tho' he was fond of gaming himſelf, he had too much delicacy to approve of the woman, who was to be his partner for life, ſhould live in a round of diſſipation.

However, he promiſed as ſoon as matters would permit, to join him, and have a trial at this favorite game of E-O. After they had refreſhed themſelves, and reſted a neceſſary time, they purſued their journey different ways. Freeman we ſhall leave for the preſent, as the buſineſs is more material with Mr. Cleveland and Charlotte, at whoſe father's he arrived the next day, and was received with all the cordiality he could have imagined: they all expreſſed much ſorrow at Mr. Cleveland's having been ſo ill; and now Mr. Cleveland

Cleveland was received, and looked upon as one of the family, and had every opportunity of converſing with Miſs Haywood, who conſidering him as on the eve of being her future huſband, as well as the man who her heart had choſen for its partner, laid aſide many of thoſe little reſerves, which are abſolutely neceſſary with the younger part of the female world.

How happy did each moment paſs! how delightful was their converſation! all was innocence, all was harmony, all was love.

Every day brought ſomething or another to increaſe their happineſs, and every one in the houſe ſeemed to anticipate the felicity of their approaching nuptials.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

Deſcription of a pleaſant Grove, with a remarkable fine Oak; the happineſs they enjoyed in this place; diſcourſe concerning the Wedding-day. A Letter to Mr. Cleveland; his return; his Father dies, &c.

MISS Haywood and Mr. Cleveland would often walk out in the neighbouring fields, to animadvert on the beauties of nature, and the lovelineſs of the vegetable creation, from whence Mr. Cleveland, as he was very capable, would be ſure to draw ſome pleaſing inference to recommend his paſſion, which indeed was far from being diſagreeable, for it has often been remarked by the moſt experienced matrons, that the time of courtſhip is the moſt happy time that is ever enjoyed, then all is tenderneſs, and reſpect, all is love, and fondneſs, which a family and future cares will not ſo well permit of, yet then if they are not perplexed with poverty, jealouſy, or the aggravations of different tempers, the felicity is more permanent.

But their moſt conſtant walk was a fine grove of tall elmns, at the back of the houſe, which reached for a quarter of a mile, at the end of which was

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a very large oak, which extended its branches to an amaxing diſtance, and caſt a pleaſing ſhade all around: under this tree on a bank of turf, they would often ſit, and utter their mutual vows of love and truth to each other, and mingle ſweet diſcourſe, with kiſſes ſweet.

Thus did the moments, hours, and days paſs away often would he preſs Charlotte, to mention the day which was to make him for ever happy! which ſhe modeſtly refer'd to the will of her father and aunt, who it ſeems, tho' they had no objection to urge againſt Mr. Cleveland, were not for hurrying matters on too faſt; they weighed with caution the old ſaying, that the hotteſt love is the ſooneſt cold; not but there ſeemed ſo much ſtability, candour, and good ſenſe, in his conduct, and they knew the temper of Charlotte to be all mildneſs and humility, ſo that the jarring ſound of diſcord could promiſe herſelf but little hopes of diſturbing their tranquility, but age has ſomething of a foreſight which young people cannot comprehend, and which is not always ſo agreeable to their wiſhes.

However, they had nearly concluded on the time, and were about writing to Mr. Cleveland's father, for his concurrence, when a letter arrived, the lovers were in the grove ſeated under the oak before mentioned, when a ſervant approached and gave the letter into Mr. Cleveland's hand, he trembled while he opened it, and ſoon read the contents, which were as follows.

" Dear

" Dear Son,

I beg you will excuſe any forms of compliments to Mr. Haywood, and his lovely daughter, as the preſent times will not permit of them. I am ſorry to diſturb your agreeable courtſhip, but your father is extremely ill, and the phyſicians are paſt all hopes of recovery, deſire you will come with all poſſible ſpeed, on the receipt of this.

Your loving mother, &c."

This was a terrible ſtroke to the fond couple, but it proceeded from a power that all muſt ſubmit to, Mr. Haywood was made acquainted with the contents, and urged the utmoſt diſpatch to Mr. Cleveland, as did likewiſe Charlotte, as in ſuch a caſe every other conſideration ſhould give place to filial duty ; and that a ſhort time would no doubt compleat their happineſs.

After promiſing to write to each other, his horſe and ſervant being ready, he ſet out as faſt as poſſible, but as he imagined it would be more expeditious to go in a chaiſe, he ſent the ſervant before, to order a poſt chaiſe and four, at the firſt inn he came to, which being ready on his arrival, he got into it, and never taſted the leaſt refreſhment till he arrived at home, he found his mother in tears, who informed him that his father had been ſpeechleſs ſome hours, and that there was but little hopes of his ever recovering the uſe of it again, notwithſtanding he ſeemed at preſent ſenſible, he then went into his father's chamber, and drawing the curtain kneel'd down by the bed ſide, and taking his father's hand, bathed it with tears,

the old gentleman turning towards the light where the curtain was drawn, perceived it was his ſon, and laying his hand upon his head, and feebly lifting up his dying eyes, ſeemed to give him his bleſſing.

This was a moving ſcene, 'twas hardly to be borne; the youth and his mother were motionleſs for ſome time, at length he ſaid to his mother, the ways of providence are wonderful, and the ſkill of the phyſician is directed by that providence. I ſhould be happy to hear my father's voice again before he leaves this world for eternity.

I know a gentleman whoſe fame in the faculty is beyond any one's, he was at Oxford ſome time ago, but now reſides not above twenty miles off, let me take the chaiſe, and go inſtantly and fetch him; he hardly waited for a reply, her looks gave conſent, and he was gone in an inſtant.

And here reader let us pauſe a little on the conduct of this young man; you ſee in this inſtance his duty and affection to his father, prevailing over every other conſideration, even after being with travelling a long way, without reſting, he ſets out to ſeek for the means to comfort and reſtore his aged father, his love continues fervent to the object of its firſt choice, his temper open, and liberal, his underſtanding inferior to few, and his feelings ſuch as do credit to the beſt of men.

What will the reader think then of ſuch a character's becoming abandoned to one of the worſt of vices, and ſo earneſt in the purſuit of it as to involve himſelf, and other innocent perſons, in total ruin,

and

and even add an unpardonable crime to it, unleſs he who is all mercy ſhould extend that to them!—yet ſo it was! read and be warned, reflect and amend.

When he arrived at the Doctor's he had the good luck to find him at home, and having made him acquainted with his deſires, then he immediately agreed to accompany him in the chaiſe, as ſoon as the horſes were changed, and in as ſhort a ſpace as can be imagined, they came to the hall, and with the moſt bitter lamentations told them, that Mr. Cleveland was worſe, and that a clergyman was praying by him. However the doctor was introduced with the ſon, the old gentleman perceived him, and turned his eyes towards him, and it has been imagined his ſon's ſudden abſence, was the cauſe of his being worſe, as he could not tell the cauſe of it, he immediately went to the bedſide, and took his father's hand as before, while the Doctor was preparing ſome medicines to apply to his temples, which he did in about ten minutes; theſe were a kind of fumigations compoſed of aromatic herbs, to enliven the almoſt extinguiſhed nerves; this operation being performed, the curtains were drawn cloſe, and all but the nurſe and Mrs. Cleveland retired for about an hour, when they were called in, as he was heard to make a kind of a gutterell ſound, and was in a fine ſweat. They had not been long in the room before he faintly called upon his ſon, who immediately went to the bed ſide, when his name was diſtinctly uttered again. I am here, my dear father, cried the ſon in great rapture; O! ſpeak again, and eaſe my panting heart, bleſs you my ſon, ſaid his father; he would have ſaid more, but his tongue faultered,

the phyſician ſaid it was enough at one time, ſo he adviſed them all to withdraw, that he might compoſe himſelf, and poſſibly in a few hours he might be better; the doctor's orders were obeyed, and all but the neceſſary attendants retired.

Young Cleveland went to his chamber, and wrote a letter to Charlotte, which was, (after relating the particulars which has been before-mentioned) as follows.

" My dear Charlotte,

After what I have related, I hope you will have no fault to find with my filial affection to my father, whoſe recovery I pray for: this tenderneſs and duty in my diſpoſition I hope will convince you that my heart is capable of the moſt pure and diſintereſted love, and that I ſhould never be able to deceive or diſregard you. Oh! keep my affections warm in your boſom, cheriſh them with equal love, and tenderneſs, and doubt not but we ſhall yet in a ſhort ſpace be happy. I cannot write any more at preſent, as I expect every moment to be called to my father's chamber: adieu, my ever dear Charlotte, pray let me have a few lines from your fair hand, as ſoon as you receive this from

Your eternal adorer

CLEVELAND."

He had juſt ſealed this and ſent it to the poſt, when his mother came and told him his father was in a fine ſleep, and adviſed him to go to bed, as no danger was apprehended that night, but he refuſed

refuſed going to bed, only pulling off his coat, he put on a night gown and threw himſelf on a couch till morning.

As ſoon as it was day-light he got up and made enquiry about his father's health, he was informed he was ſtill aſleep, by one who had juſt been to enquire, but alas! he was ſoon convinced what this ſleep was when he beheld his mother in the full tide of agony and griet, ſupported by two ſervants, led to another appartment.

He was dead, and his death was like infants ſleep, ſmiling.

This was terrible to Mr. Cleveland, he wept bitterly, and tho' it is not faſhionable with people of fortune to ſee their relations after they are dead he ſet cuſtom aſide and purſued the dictates of nature, he entered the room, embalmed the body with his tears, and called upon his father with the moſt affectionate and trembling accents.

Vain grief, vain words, his ſoul was beyond the reach of human voices, and grief, though natural, was unavailing.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

Letter from Charlotte,—another to her.—The Funeral, his Mother returns to a Relation,—another Letter to Charlotte.—From her.—He goes to LONDON, &c.

The next day he received the following Letter from Charlotte.——

"My ever dear Cleveland,

You give me inconceivable pleaſure, by your relating your care, affection, and diligence towards reſtoring the health of a good and aged parent, whom I pray God may reſtore to all our wiſhes, as to your love I doubt it not, nor need you fear the leaſt that my affection ſhould cool by your being abſent, we are both young, and I hope have many years to live, a year hence would make but a little difference, if we begin happily and continue ſo to the end: death is a debt we all muſt pay, and if your father's time is come have a proper regard to his memory, the hour of joy you know and the hour of ſorrow, are different, hope for the beſt, as I do, but be prepared for the worſt, and if a declaration

claration of my fixt and unchangeable love will give you any ſatisfaction, take it with all my heart, and believe me ſincerely

Yours, &c.

C. HAYWOOD.

This letter which t' o' it gave him ſome conſolation, had a kind of foreboding of the event in it, if your father's time is come, alas! ſaid he to himſelf, my dear Charlotte, his time is indeed come, he ſleeps to wake no more in this world; here the tears ran down a freſh, 'till he was called to dinner; he went thro' ceremony but ſcarce eat any thing, after which he went up to his cloſet, and wrote what follows, to Charlotte.

" Dear Charlotte,

Your letter was prophetical, my father is indeed no more, he died without a groan, nay, he rather ſeemed to ſleep than die, but he has paid the debt of nature, which we muſt all do; it ſeems my love you talk of a neceſſary decency to be obſerved, I allow it, but ſurely you will not fix it at ſo long a time as you have hinted at in your letter, a year my angel, is more than is required; ſomething may make it ſo with a widow, but to a ſon a more limited ſpace may be allowed, but of this I ſhall write more after the funeral, which will be in about a week, 'till when I ſhall diſcontinue writing, in the mean time, I remain

with the utmoſt affection,

CLEVELAND."

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When this letter was gone he ſet about the ordering of the funeral, and by his mother's deſire, invited ſeveral relations, as well as the neighbouring gentry; it was thought rather a compliment to invite Mr. and Miſs Haywood, as they lived at too great a diſtance, nor did they think it ſtrictly proper, conſidering what had paſſed between Mr. Cleveland and that young lady, and how much nearer they were likely in a ſhort time to be.

The day arrived for the funeral rites to be performed, there was a hearſe, and four mourning coaches, filled by thoſe who thought proper to accept of the invitation; the hearſe was ornamented with eſcutcheons finely painted, and the body with all the ceremony on ſuch occaſions, depoſited in the family vault, which was in a church about ten miles off.

This laſt ſervice to the dead being over they returned to the hall, where the lamentation of Mrs. Cleveland were unbounded, indeed her grief is not to be wondered at, for they had been married upwards of forty years, and lived a life ſeldom known in the married ſtate, of almoſt uninterrupted happineſs.

The next day her grief ſubſided a little, ſhe expreſſed a deſire of quitting the manſion houſe, and retiring with a female relation who was then preſent, to a diſtant part of the country, which was ſoon agreed to.

The eſtate came to the ſon, and his mother had only his jointure to live upon, which was very ſufficient, but he declared he would not touch a penny

penny of the rents while ſhe liv'd, only be her ſteward, and give her a faithful account; this was another proof of his duty, and pity 'tis that he was not punctual in keeping his promiſe. After ſettling things at the hall, his mother ſet out with her relation for the propoſed place of retirement, and her ſon promis'd to viſit her as often as poſſible; but as he was now in a manner prohibited from paying his reſpects in perſon to Miſs Haywood, he intended to go to London for a few months to divert his melancholy, perhaps with Freeman if he ſhould be in town.

Fatal reſolution, he had better have propos'd to have gone to the farther part of the earth, than to have ſought that loadſtone which was to attract him to his ruin.

However, it was determined and with the utmoſt diligence ſettled all accounts relative to the eſtate and other money matters, and like a young unexperienced heir ſet out to hunt after folly and ruination; but before he went he ſent the following letter to Charlotte with a direction where ſhe might write to him in London.

"My Dear Charlotte

According to my promiſe I now write to you, I have paid my laſt duty to the beſt of parents; my mother is retired with a relation to a diſtant part of the country, and as that alworſhip'd thing call'd cuſtom has ſet a bar between us for the preſent, I have determin'd to go to London for a few months, yet hope my dear to have the pleaſure of often hearing from you, and you may be aſſured that I

will not fail conſtantly to write to you, to aſſure you of my love and everlaſting conſtancy. Oh! my Charlotte, theſe few months will be more than years to him who doats on you, and whoſe whole happineſs is fixt on you alone,

Cleveland.

No ſooner was this gone, than he ſet out for London; what happened on the road is unneceſſary to ſet down, it will be ſufficient to ſay that he was unfortunate enough to find out Freeman, who was in all the hurry of his profeſſion as he had made it, that was to go to the gaming table, or what is called E O Cleveland did not go with him the firſt night, being rather fatigued with his journey, therefore ſtaid in his chamber which he had taken in the purlieus of St. James's. The next day Freeman waited on him, and it was agreed to go together that evening, which they did, and both won conſiderably, which was no little encouragement to Cleveland, who had every night the ſame while he ſtaid in London, which was not many days. Now Freeman was going to Newmarket Races, and he agreed to accompany him with his wife, but before they ſet out Cleveland received the following letter from Charlotte.

" My dear Cleveland,

I am glad your melancholy buſineſs is over, and your mother is retired with a companion, who will make her remaining moments eaſy, but I cannot ſay I am ſo contented on your going to London, that place of diſſipation and pleaſure; yet believe me it is not for fear of loſing your affection

to

to ſome happier rival. No, I have a better opinion of your honour, however ſimple my perſon or underſtanding may be than to harbour a thought of that kind; there are other things which give my mind uneaſineſs, your own ſex are too often the ruin of one another, the ways are many, you are young and unſkill'd in the deceitful ways of mankind, who betray with a ſmile, and revel in the deſtruction of others. Let me caution you to ſhun the company of the vain and profligate, purſue what's rational but not too alluring, and conſider my dear, dear Cleveland, that the eternal peace of mind of your poor Charlotte Harwood depends upon your conduct; rumour flies every where, and ſhould my father no the leaſt tittle of any thing out of the line of prudence, or honour, he is ſo rigid in the cauſe of virtue and good behaviour, that you would be totally excluded from his houſe, and what would become of your poor Charlotte, ponder on this and let me hear that your love is the ſame as ever, and your conduct irreproachable, and huſh to reſt the panting heart of your ever faithful

CHARLOTTE."

Such a letter ae this one would have imagined to have been ſufficient to have put a ſtop to his intended journey, and I believe it would, but the devil and Freeman order'd otherwiſe, pho, pho, ſaid Freeman, this Haywood is an old hypocrite, if you loſe all your fortune he'll give his daughter to ſomebody elſe; but if you double it, no matter by what means, you'll be double the more welcome; but I wiſh you had been married before your father died, then every thing would have been right, but come, we will make this journey to all

the races in England as they follow in courſe, and by that time your days of probation will be expired, in the mean time ply the girl with letters, I ſee ſhe's fond, and make her believe that you don't know a box and dice from a pincuſhion, fortune will in that time be your friend, and turn her wheel ſo much in your favour, that you may defy her frowns for ever after, Cleveland yielded, he mounted his horſe, and Freeman and his lady got into a phæton. They ſoon arrived at Newmarket, where Freeman was as well known as the firſt lord or jockey in the kingdom, he was acquainted with all the knowing ones, ſuch as are diſtinguiſhed by the names of Black-lip, or in other words Sharper.

Some of theſe gentry were anxious of knowing who the perſon was, who rode by the ſide of the phæton, but as it was not proper to aſk that queſtion any more of Freeman, they had recourſe to a more certain method, which was to get in company with Cleveland's ſervant at night, and by the help of a quart or two of ale, pump him out of all that he knew, which was as much as they wanted.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

Some Account of the Company.—'Tis found out who Mr. Cleveland is.—The Sharpers determin'd to Fleece him.—Some Account of the E. O. Table.—He loſes an imenſe ſum.—Converſation with Freeman, he quits his Company, goes to York and his ſucceſs there.

THE company at Newmarket conſiſted of a very mixt group of lords, jockeys, 'ſquires, ſharpers, clergymen, templers, and tradeſmen, who came to ſquander away their money, that in a ſhort time they might help to fill up a vacancy in the Gazette, by the honourable name of Bankrupt, to the mortification of their creditors, whoſe families were ruin'd by their extravagancies.

The nobility &c. were dreſt like jockies, and the ſharpers like noblemen, and the tradeſmen in various ſtiles as their own abundant fanciss directed. Various were the amuſements, or on their decoys to tempt people to loſe their money in this famous place, Billiards, Cards, Cock Fighting, Bruiſing, and above all E. O. This was the grand take in of all. The table is a circle placed on the outward the letters E. O. on which the money is laid, the letters again in an inner circle, near which is a gruve, in the middle is a ſmall ſpindle, on the top of which is a croſs, the ends

of

of which are made like a ſmall ſcoop, in one of which is placed a ball, which when the croſs is turn'd round, the ſpindle after various evolutions falls into a hollow between the two circles, and continues running round the table till it falls into one of the nitches, which decides who wins or who loſes, according as they have laid their money upon E. or O. on each ſide about the middle of the circle, exactly oppoſite to each other are two bars, which are call'd the bar E. and the bar O. if the ball falls into the bar E. it is not loſt, you may draw it if you pleaſe, but if it falls into the bar O. it is loſt entirely, and all is ſwept to the bank, as it is call'd; it has been calculated that this croſs is never turn'd under five pounds a turn, and that the table upon an average clears thirty pounds an hour. The odds in favour of the table is moſt amazing, yet it ſeems to be the faireſt game that is ever play'd, which deception is the temptation which makes ſo many venture their fortunes, and often bring on total ruin; thus much for the table, and now we ſhall return to the adventures of Mr. Cleveland.

The ſharpers had put in practice their ſchemes upon the man; they had dodg'd him to an Ale-houſe, and by ſome pretext or other began to diſcourſe with him; they aſk'd, as they obſerved his maſter was in black, if he was a clergyman; the man replied no, he was better than that, for he had juſt buried his father and had a good eſtate, beſides a fortune in ready money of thirty thouſand pounds. This was rare news for the rooks, who were determin'd to ſtrip off ſome of the feathers from this pigeon.

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The day's race being over, on which he neither loſt or won any thing conſiderable; he went with Freeman in the evening to the E. O. Table, and after various ſucceſſes during the courſe of the night, he found himſelf towards the morning no leſs than ten thouſand pounds loſer; this began to awaken reflections, and he told Freeman that he muſt leave off venturing in that manner, as he perceived it would ſoon ſtrip him of all that he was worth; but Freeman who had been himſelf a loſer that night, ſaid hang it, never mind it we ſhall win twenty thouſand pounds to-morrow night, I never give it up while I have any thing left.

This philoſophy was not ſuitable to Mr. Cleveland's mind, he began to fear his imprudence ſhould get wind, and come to the ears of Mr. Haywood: he had ſeveral times written to Charlotte, aſſuring her that his conduct ſhould be ſuch as no way could give diſguſt to her father, and had received a kind and ſenſible anſwer as his heart could wiſh for, ſo that he was extremely touch'd at this piece of folly, and determin'd to leave Newmarket the next day. He communicated this deſign to Freeman, who perſuaded him to ſtay one night more, but as to his going to the E. O. table he might do as he pleas'd, for he did not think he ſhould be there himſelf, as he was engaged with a party at cards. Mr. Cleveland ſtay'd that night, merely while ſome things which he wanted was got ready, therefore did not go with Freeman; yet could not help about ten o'clock at night being lur'd into the ſame place again; but whether fortune or the cunning of the ſharpers was the cauſe of it I know not, but he won ſome

of

of which are made like a ſmall ſcoop, in one of which is placed a ball, which when the croſs is turn'd round, the ſpindle after various evolutions falls into a hollow between the two circles, and continues running round the table till it falls into one of the nitches, which decides who wins or who loſes, according as they have laid their money upon E. or O. on each ſide about the middle of the circle, exactly oppoſite to each other are two bars, which are call'd the bar E. and the bar O. if the ball falls into the bar E. it is not loſt, you may draw it if you pleaſe, but if it falls into the bar O. it is loſt entirely, and all is ſwept to the bank, as it is call'd; it has been calculated that this croſs is never turn'd under five pounds a turn, and that the table upon an average clears thirty pounds an hour. The odds in favour of the table is moſt amazing, yet it ſeems to be the faireſt game that is ever play'd, which deception is the temptation which makes ſo many venture their fortunes, and often bring on total ruin; thus much for the table, and now we ſhall return to the adventures of Mr. Cleveland.

The ſharpers had put in practice their ſchemes upon the man; they had dodg'd him to an Alehouſe, and by ſome pretext or other began to diſcourſe with him; they aſk'd, as they obſerved his maſter was in black, if he was a clergyman; the man replied no, he was better than that, for he had juſt buried his father and had a good eſtate, beſides a fortune in ready money of thirty thouſand pounds. This was rare news for the rooks, who were determin'd to ſtrip off ſome of the feathers from this pigeon.

The

The day's race being over, on which he neither loſt or won any thing conſiderable; he went with Freeman in the evening to the E O. Table, and after various ſucceſſes during the courſe of the night, he found himſelf towards the morning no leſs than ten thouſand pounds loſer; this began to awaken reflections, and he told Freeman that he muſt leave off venturing in that manner, as he perceived it would ſoon ſtrip him of all that he was worth; but Freeman who had been himſelf a loſer that night, ſaid hang it, never mind it we ſhall win twenty thouſand pounds to-morrow night, I never give it up while I have any thing left.

This philoſophy was not ſuitable to Mr. Cleveland's mind, he began to fear his imprudence ſhould get wind, and come to the ears of Mr. Haywood: he had ſeveral times written to Charlotte, aſſuring her that his conduct ſhould be ſuch as no way could give diſguſt to her father, and had received a kind and ſenſible anſwer as his heart could wiſh for, ſo that he was extremely touch'd at this piece of folly, and determin'd to leave Newmarket the next day. He communicated this deſign to Freeman, who perſuaded him to ſtay one night more, but as to his going to the E. O. table he might do as he pleas'd, for he did not think he ſhould be there himſelf, as he was engaged with a party at cards. Mr. Cleveland ſtay'd that night, merely while ſome things which he wanted was got ready, therefore did not go with Freeman; yet could not help about ten o'clock at night being lur'd into the ſame place again; but whether fortune or the cunning of the ſharpers was the cauſe of it I know not, but he won ſome

of

of his money back again; and tho' the ſum was inconſiderable in point of what he had loſt, he had prudence enough to go home before it was loſt again. In the morning he met Freeman, who with a ſmiling countenance told him he had heard of his ſucceſs, for that he came to the table juſt as he had left it, and had repaired his own loſs with a conſiderable overplus, and ſo would have had Cleveland to have ſtaid a few days longer to try his luck again, but he could not prevail, he was determined to leave Newmarket, and abſolutely did in a few hours, tho' Freeman appear'd a little chagrin'd at it.

He purſued his road towards the North, very gently, amuſing himſelf at the different proſpects of the country for ſeveral days, not being as yet determined where he was going to; ſometimes going acroſs the country from one town to another, making obſervations on the trades, manufactories, and whatever was worth notice; at laſt he went to York, having read of the antiquity of that city which had been ſo famous in a great number of wars. It took him up ſeveral days in viewing what was worth notice, and it being the month of Auguſt, near the time when the races are kept there, he thought he would ſtay there, but was determined never to ſport above five pounds on any account.

But alas! the reſolution of mankind are but weak however earneſtly they are form'd and are but rarely kept, eſpecially when inclination is againſt the promiſe. The time came, the place was crowded with very good company, as well as with the worſt; the ſame entertainment was here as at the

the others, for theſe gentry ſhift, their quarters from one place to another, which makes it amazing that people of underſtanding can purſue an entertainment with ſuch avidity which has ſo little variety in it.

As ſoon as the races began he attended the diverſion, the turf was fill'd with people, horſes, chaiſe, &c. with which he ſeem'd pretty well ſatisfied without any other amuſement; he ſometimes chatted with the ladies ſometimes with gentlemen, laid ſmall bets, and paſs'd the firſt day with the greateſt care and compoſure; the next day it was the ſame, but at night his evil genius directed him to a houſe of other entertainment, where in a few hours (having forgot all his former reſolution) he loſt ſeveral hundred pounds at the E O table, and like his former folly muſt needs go the next night to try to retrieve it, but in vain, for he added ſeveral more to it.

This brought on a ſmall reflection: Who (ſaid he to himſelf) have I to blame now? Freeman is not here to tempt one. No, no, 'tis in vain to lay our faults upon others, 'tis my own head ſtrong paſſion for ſuch deluſive amuſements, which urges me on to ruin and deſtruction; and oh! the wickedneſs of my heart, how do I deceive the lovely, the kind, the ſenſible Charlotte: She perhaps has heard of my folly, her father has heard it and I am excluded for ever, I am baniſh'd from that paradiſe where all that is ſweet and innocent reſides, I will leave this place immediately, I will no more purſue this diabolical paſtime, I will go to Scarborough, where better company reſort, from thence I will write to the dear creature, her an-

ſwer will ſatisfy me if all is ſafe, if not what will become of me—It ſhall be ſo, I will fly hence immediately, I will be there as faſt as poſſible—will order a poſt chaiſe and four to be got ready directly. His orders was directly obeyed, and in leſs than an hour he ſet out; nothing remarkable occur'd on the road. Scarborough was a fine place, full of the beſt company, and Freeman was there before him; they met at the Croſs Keys juſt as he alighted from the Poſt Chaiſe; all animoſities was drop'd, they ſhook hands and partook of a bottle or two, the wine got into his head, reflection flew out of the window, gaming was the word, and to another E. O. they went, where Cleveland in the courſe of a few hours found himſelf out of his thirty thouſand pounds, worth almoſt three hundred; Freeman had as bad luck, for he loſt all he was worth in the world; not only what was his own but a little fortune of his nieces, whom he was choſen guardian to, and his wife had nothing left but ſome trifling ornaments, which fetched but very little. When he found himſelf quite ruin'd, he went on board a ſhip with an intent to go to the Eaſt Indies, his gay wife was obliged to ſeek ſhelter among her friends, and his unfortunate niece who was brought up as a gentlewoman, being rob'd of her fortune by her uncle became in time a common proſtitute, all which may be laid at the door of that precious invention the E. O. table, which tho' contrary to act of parliament our magiſtrates ſuffer in every part of the kingdom.

CHAP

CHAP. VI.

Receives a Letter from Charlotte—The contents—Leaves Scarborough and goes to Nottingham, loſes more Money, dips the Eſtate and writes to Charlotte—Goes to her, and ſtrives to vindicate his conduct—Borrows Money of her, and a correſpondence unknown to her Father is agreed to.

HAVING entirely done with Freeman, we ſhall now confine ourſelves entirely to what happens to Cleveland and Charlotte to the concluſion of this hiſtory, which tho' it may be too tragical for ſome folks, yet being true, we hope the conſequence will have due weight with all young people of both ſexes, a warning to young gentlemen to avoid gaming, and likewiſe to ladies how they engage their affections too ſtrongly before they are well acquainted with the object in every reſpect; a handſome perſon, a good underſtanding, and an affluent ſpeech, being no ſecurity againſt the vices and follies which too often ſubdue the reaſon, and bring the unhappy perſon to inevitable deſtruction.

Cleveland when he firſt came to Scarborough, as he had determined writ to his dear Charlotte, and

indeed waited ſome days longer than he would have done, in hopes of an anſwer, as his mind was not a little agaited, having remarked ſeveral paragraphs in the news papers, hinting at a young gentleman who had lately buried his father in the Weſt, having loſt conſiderable ſums at the E. O. tables; though there was no direct name he was certain that Mr. Haywood directly would find one to them, and Cleveland would be the name: this was what ranckled in his boſom; when lo! a letter came, it was ſealed with black, though he knew the direction to be Charlotte's it was as follows.

To —— CLEVELAND Eſq;

For ever dear Cleveland, inſenſible I find you to the call of prudence, honour and me, yet I muſt call you dear; how have you deceived me, you ſet aſide all my council, neglected my love, and for ever loſt my perſon.—Adieu! I now take my leave as of one that is dead, never to ſee them more; my father has heard of your folly, he has been informed of it by word of mouth, ſo that there is no room for doubt, and I have his ſtrict commands never to correſpond with you any more; even this letter is an infringement on my duty, and muſt be the laſt; yet as my heart hopes for the beſt, and even takes your part againſt itſelf; I would fain hear your vindication, yet do not deceive me but tell the truth; I may forgive what my parents cannot, and time may yet ſet all things right; I deſpiſe that droſs of the world money, any farther than it is neceſſary; perhaps your ſpirit was too open, you might be provok'd, be dar'd. Oh! you ſee how ready my love is to find excuſe for you, but

but beware, do not impoſe upon my generous temper. Write ſoon, and direct for me as you will ſee at the bottom; pray my dear Cleveland pity the affliction of your ever loving Charlotte, and let me not live long in this anxiety.

He had no ſooner read this letter, than he flung about the room like a madman; ſhe is loſt, (he cried) for ever loſt, my own folly has loſt her, if I tell her the truth I ſhall never ſee her more, if I tell her a falſehood in time it will be found out, and I am cut off; I will write to her, I will go to her in perſon, love will prevail, my eſtate is ſufficient, I will leave all public places, return to the country, I will ſerve an apprenticeſhip to penitence till even her father ſhall own that I have atoned for my folly, and give his conſent to make me happy.

This was no bad reſolution had it been kept to, but like many others it was form'd in one paſſion, and broke in another. However, he wrote as follows.

To Miſs HAYWOOD.

Moſt angelic creature, how have you pleas'd and alarm'd me, terrified and ſoftened, you have caſt me down to the loweſt pit of deſpondency, and raiſed me up again to light and life.

I muſt own the truth, I have been guilty in part of what your father has been inform'd, but nothing to the extreme which he apprehends; 'tis the buſineſs of tale-bearers to enlarge the original to what ſize they beſt think will ſuit their hearer.

I own

frown I am aſham'd of what I have done, and more ſo on your account than any thing elſe; for what ever my follies may have been, the crime of not loving you my enemies cannot lay to my charge, I know the good old woman where you have appointed for my letters to be directed, and mean ſhortly to meet at her cottage all that my ſoul holds dear, and there explain whatever may appear wrong in my conduct, and doubt not but I ſhall receive pardon from my dear Charlotte, whom during my life it ſhall be my care never to offend more, hoping this may give ſome comfort to your kind agitated heart, I remain ſincerely, and unalterable your faithful lover,

CLEVELAND.

When he had diſpatch'd this to the Poſt Office, he ſet out on horſeback from Scarborough, paſs'd again thro' York, and took the rout thro' Nottingham, where there was likewiſe races; the ground is very commodious, and the ſtand very handſome, and ſome of the firſt company in England was preſent, one or two of the royal family being preſent; this grandeur ſtop'd his carreer, and he muſt needs make one, at leaſt he thought for a day, but he ſtayed two: thus you ſee it once we ſet an hour paſs which we promis'd to keep, we don't think ſo much of the next, and the third is heeded as nothing at all; thus vice creeps on from day to day, "to the laſt ſyllable of record-"ing time," as Shakeſpear ſays, the ſecond day determin'd him to ſtay the third, and the E. O. table the fourth and fifth; for tho' the races were over in three days, theſe black legged gentry, having no where to go to at preſent, ſtay'd a few

days

days longer for the amuſement of gentlemen, who wiſh'd perfectly to underſtand this Scientifical table, tho' it was ſomewhat expenſive to them, eſpecially to our unfortunate Cleveland, who for the firſt time in his life had made too free with the bottle, whether ſomething had been mix'd with his wine on purpoſe it is not certain, but his thirſty palate made him ſwallow more than it was his cuſtom to do; as the wine got into his head then his ſpirits roſe, and he could not help thinking that he now poſſeſs'd all the money which he had before ſquandered away; he ſoon loſt all he had about him, and before ſobriety took place, had dip'd his eſtate ſo far, that it was not likely to be ever in his power to redeem it.

Theſe knights of the round table having got what they wiſh'd for, they preſently decamp'd and Cleveland had now time to cool, and reflect on what was paſt, but reflection was torment, 'twas deſtruction, he could not bear it.

He ordered his ſervant to get the horſes ready, and as ſoon as poſſible ſet out, ſcarcely knowing where he was going, yet he directed his horſe towards the road where Charlotte lived, that is to the Weſt; after riding a few miles like Dryden's clown, who whiſtled as he went for want of thought, for his ideas were too confus'd to think at all; at laſt he began to cheer up, and to ſee how one vice creates another he determin'd to add falſhood to miſconduct; that is, he meant to form a tale for Charlotte's ear ſo plauſible, that ſhe ſhould think him innocent, any farther than his having been impos'd upon in ſome trifling affairs, and by an artful turn borrow money of her for

ſome

ſome particular uſe, as he well knew her fortune was in her own power; here was folly, falſehood and meanneſs all join'd together. Accordingly he made the beſt of his way towards the place, ſtopping but ſeldom on the road, and ſtaying a very ſhort time, ſo that the ſervant thought he was mad.

At length he arrived in the neighbourhood, he left the ſervant at an inn, about two miles off, and walk'd to the cottage Charlotte had appointed to receive his letters at; as accident happen'd, ſhe was there to enquire if any other letter was come, as according to his laſt letter ſhe had expected him ſooner, but his ſtay at Nottingham prevented him; ſhe was much ſurpriz'd to ſee him and almoſt fainted in his arms; his eyes overflowed with tears, and his conſcience at that time gave him ſuch a pang that he ſigh'd like one that was dying, which ſhe poor innocent ſoul took for the overflowing of his love, which however to do him juſtice was by no means abated, but his duplicity to deal with ſo fond and believing a lady moſt ſenſibly touch'd him.

When they had mutually embraced each other, and the old woman ſet out ſome refreſhments ſhe left them to themſelves, as judging her abſence would be more pleaſing; and now the tender tear ſtood in Charlotte's eye; ſhe gently upbraided him with want of reſolution to withſtand the temptations of folly, to which he artfully replied, that he muſt own he had loſt a trifle by impoſition, but that it was not worth ſpeaking of, that his principal money was yet in his banker's hands, and for fear that her father might be acquainted with

with what ſum he ſhould draw at a time, and from thence form concluſion to his prejudice; he had not even had what he wanted for neceſſary uſes; even now he wanted a ſum for ſuch things as were neceſſary to keep up the character of a gentleman, and he was determin'd to borrow it, tho' at ever ſo exorbitant an intereſt, rather than it ſhould be known to her father as his Banker was his acquaintance. Charlotte replied, there is no neceſſity for applying to uſurers for money, if that is the caſe, I have ſufficient in my own hands, and will let you have whatever ſum you may want for neceſſary uſes; adding that ſhe hoped he would come and ſettle in the country, and ſhew by his manner of life that he was not guilty of what had been laid to his charge; he made ſome apologies about having the money of her, which ſhe inſiſted he ſhould, and deſired he would meet her the next day in the grove, under the great oak, where they had paſs'd ſo many happy moments, and for that night they parted. He ſlept but little, his conſcience would not let him; in the morning he aroſe early and went to the place appointed, he trembled as he approach'd, and could not help recollecting how happy and innocent he had been but a few months back, and how like a villain he now look'd to himſelf. He had not been long before Charlotte came, and brought him bank notes to the amount of a thouſand pounds, and deſired he would take a haſty leave, as ſhe expected her father would be in the garden, and he would not have him ſeen; ſhe begg'd he would write to her ſoon, and inform her of all he intended, and fix on a time for his coming to reſide entirely in the country, then af-

ter many tender looks, expreſſions, and vows of mutual fidelity they ſeparated.

CHAP. VII.

He returns to London.—Writes to Charlotte, receives an anſwer not very pleaſing—Writes again, receives another letter more diſcouraging than the firſt.—Goes to the E. O. table, loſes his money again, writes again to Charlotte but receives no anſwer.—Goes into the country almoſt diſtracted.—Leaves a letter at the cottage, begs a laſt meeting in the grove, hangs himſelf, his funeral, Charlotte's death and the concluſion.

HAVING parted with Charlotte, he return'd to the Inn where his ſervant and the horſes lay, and having ſettled the account there made the beſt of his way towards London, intending to ſtrike a bold ſtroke once more at the E. O. table; however he determin'd firſt of all to lay cloſe for a week or two, put himſelf out of mourning, and go by another name, and only go now and then and be very circumſpect, and try if poſſible to find out if there was any art in the ſame, or whether it was by chance; this he had prudence enough to do, and for ſome weeks did not venture above a guinea or two, and had the good luck to be

be a winner, which not a little encouraged his hopes, that fortune might ſome time turn her wheel in his favour for larger ventures, eſpecially when he ſaw others, who like himſelf loſt their all, ſupport themſelves as gentlemen merely by gaming; prudence he thought now was not come too late, and if by her aſſiſtance he could get his fortune back again, he would never tempt the wicked goddeſs any more; and this reſolution we believe he might keep with ſafety, as he was determin'd not to put it to the trial, therefore he could not break a vow which he was under a neceſſity of keeping. Soon after he arrived in town, according to his promiſe he wrote to Charlotte. The letter was as follows.

My adorable Charlotte,

I take the firſt opportunity of writing to you, I have had much buſineſs upon my hands ſince my arrival, but nothing ſhall ever hinder me from conveying my everlaſting love, to the only object which can make me happy. As yet my little affairs are unſettled, and I cannot fix any particular time when I ſhall be able to come into the country for good, but believe me my dear angel, I long for the time as much as poſſible, as I know it will give ſatisfaction to you, depend on't I ſhall houſewife your kindneſs with all imaginable care, and as ſoon as opportunity permits pay you the principal, and I hope you will accept my perſon for the intereſt. Oh! how I long to be united to ſo much worth, that my ſoul may be incorporated with thine, and I may partake of divine perfection, then will my droſs fly off and none but what is pure and ſterling remain.

Write to me my dear Charlotte as ſoon as poſſible, that I may have the pleaſure of kiſſing your letter and breathe the fervor of my ſoul upon them, for in hearing from you is my only pleaſure by day, as your perſon employs my dreams by night; let me not languiſh my love but write often, no matter what you ſay, every thing from you gives delight, and pray my dear believe me in this as in all others I am your ſincere lover till death,

CLEVELAND.

This letter was put in the poſt-office one night as he was going to the E. O. table, where he loſt half of what Charlotte had ſo deliberately lent him, which he ſet down to his having acted ſo hypocritically to the worthieſt of the female creation; a few days after he received the following from her.

Ah! Cleveland,

You perfidous man how have you deceived me, is all your ſincerity, come to this? Ingrateful creature how could you uſe me thus; know I am too well convinced of your imprudence to call it by no other name, my father has juſt inform'd me that your eſtate is in the hands of ſharpers; is this your ſtewardſhip for your mother, who now lies at the point of death, ſtung to the heart at your extravagance; as to the trifle you had of me, I think not of it, I have loſt all that my ſoul held dear, then what is fortune to me: Oh! Cleveland did you know the pangs I feel for your miſconduct, you would weep tears of blood; but what talk I of weeping, your ſenſibility is all a cheat, your countenance which I thought was the index to

honour

honour and honeſty is all an impoſition, ungenerous you have betray'd my weak heart for ever to deſpair. Beware ye virgins how you truſt to the words or looks of man, for their actions bely all their ſeeming—but adieu, this is the laſt you will ever receive from the loſt afflicted

Charlotte:

This letter came ſo late that he was gone to the E. O. before it arrived, where he finiſhed all that he had left in the world, and was no better, except in appearance than a beggar. On going home he received the letter, and broke it open with an earneſtneſs which cannot be expreſs'd, and on peruſing the contents flung himſelf on the bed in a fit of deſpair. Here he remain'd inſenſible for ſome time; at laſt he ſtarted up, and in a wild manner cried out, thank God 'tis all over, I am now paſt help, paſt hope, paſt ruin—ruin I am ruin'd. Death you ſharping dog—what do ye mean—Oh! Charlotte I have loſt and my mother too; hold, hold my heartſtrings, where is the piſtol; here he was running to the cloſet, when the ſervant puſhed him on the bed and took the piſtol from him, and after a time he grew more compos'd, and he wrote another letter to Charlotte.

My ever dear Charlotte,

I know not how to addreſs you, my follies can be no longer hid, yet I hope things are not irrecoverable; I have ſome reſources yet, which in time I will inform you of; believe me ſince the receipt of your laſt letter I am diſtracted, ſend me a line to comfort me, have pity on your undone

Cleveland.

Having

Having waited ſeveral days, and no anſwer coming from Charlotte, he rais'd ſome money upon his watch, a ring and other valuable things, and went into the country, determined if poſſible to have an interview with her before he gave her up for ever; to this purpoſe he went to the cottage, and by the help of bribes and perſuaſions he got her to deliver the following.

Deareſt Charlotte,

I find I have loſt you for ever, I intreat you as I would on God for mercy, not to refuſe this my laſt requeſt; I am determin'd to go a long journey a great way off, to try my fortune in another country, but before I ſet out, I humbly and earneſtly beg you will meet me once more at the bottom of that once happy grove under the great oak, there to take a final leave; 'tis my laſt favour, and hope it will not be refus'd, the good old woman will bring me an anſwer. Adieu my dear Charlotte. Cleveland.

He waited at the cottage till the old woman return'd, who brought him word that ſhe had condeſcended to meet him at five the next evening; he took his leave ſeemingly cheerful. The evening came, and Charlotte went down the grove towards the oak, when gueſs at the horror which overpower'd her ſenſes for a while; a ſpectacle of terror indeed, on one of the moſt projecting arms of the tree Cleveland hanging dead; from his ſhoe depended a letter by a ſtring, which after ſhe had recovered her ſenſes ſhe read, which was as follows.

To the ever to be valued Charlotte. The pangs of death can be nothing to the parting with you, my

my folly has undone me, my cri[illegible]vy on my ſoul, my mind is diſtracted, [illegible] alone is the medicine which can give rel[illegible]et me while life remains pour out my com[illegible]on the beſt and deareſt upon earth. I nev[illegible]as profligate or abandon'd, all my affli[illegible]g from that bane of ſociety the E. O. table, [illegible]penſity to game was my ruin, my heart n[illegible]was a foe to deceit, how then could I dece[illegible]and yet I did; yet believe me my dear Ch[illegible]h regard to my love, it was all ſincerity a[illegible]th, it was pure as innocence itſelf, as ſuch in my dying moments I would wiſh you to believe it; my only favour I have to beg is, that you will take care that my body is put in the earth, [illegible]ſſible, bury your reſentment with it. A[illegible]dear Charlotte,

[illegible]eland,

It ſeems the ſervant had a ſuſpici[illegible]t he had intended to make away with himſelf, and as he knew his fondneſs for Charlotte, he enquired firſt at the houſe, which brought Mr. Haywood to the grove, where he found as before deſcribed; the old gentleman inſiſted that he ſhould be buried by the county [illegible] croſs road, Charlotte would not agree to t[illegible]however the coroner's inqueſt was taken, and [illegible]y brought in their verdict inſane. Haywo[illegible]ever was ſo angry with her that he went f[illegible]her into the country, becauſe he would not [illegible]any thing of it.

According to Charlotte's order his corps was carried to the pariſh church, preceded by the children of the charity ſchool, to ſing a hymn before it, the weeping Charlotte had a ſtone put up with this verſe on.

Here

y folly was betray'd ;
d by an unhappy maid.
his actions to explore,
ll his follies now are o'er.

Se ter Charlotte had perform'd thi
piou her father return'd, and ſtill kept a
hat d towards the memory of the un-
hi hich would often break out in un-
be hes on the innocent Charlotte, til
at t of melancholy ſhe made the fam
un , by the aſſiſtance of her garter a
th bed. Thus ended theſe true lovers

A oung women will be very cautiou
h gage their affections too far, leat
th r Charlotte for ever lo their peac
of fall a ſacrifice to deſpair.

All you who read this hapleſs tale of grief,
Which ſeems almoſt ſuprizing of relief.
By ſuch examples warn'd before to ſhun
Thoſe ways by which this couple was undone
Self murder is a ſin of deeper
Forbiden all muſt know by t high ;
Wait his decree nor preſs de,
Where ſtill in judgment ſi God.

FINIS